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DOUGLAS E. HOWARD, Director

# News Release

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## **The Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (MDVPTB) releases the premier issue of “*Report to Michigan*”**

Today the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board released its first *Report to Michigan*. The report discusses the MDVPTB’s legislative mandate and mission, as well as efforts, collaborations and ongoing initiatives to eliminate domestic and sexual violence in Michigan.

“An educated public is the key to domestic violence prevention,” said MDVPTB executive director Debra Cain, “and this report will be a valuable resource for citizens committed to a violence-free Michigan.”

*Report to Michigan* highlights the following:

- Many statewide organizations are working in tandem with the MDVPTB to develop approaches to better respond to both victims and perpetrators. These strategies include initiatives in categories such as: legislation, training, public awareness, and publications.

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JOHN ENGLER, Governor

- In the fall of 2000, Governor Engler convened a Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force to address the tragic reality that in 1999 more than 100 women in Michigan were murdered by their batterers. The Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force released its report in April, 2001 with numerous recommendations focusing on: public education, problems with the court system, accountability of batterers, victim protections, unified reporting and data collection systems and health care response.
- The MDVPTB currently administers more than \$18 million in federal and state funds to support local domestic and sexual violence agencies. Since its inception in 1978, the governor-appointed board and its staff, administratively housed within the Family Independence Agency, have launched many statewide ventures related to their mission of leading statewide efforts to eliminate domestic and sexual violence.

“Domestic and sexual violence account for a significant percentage of violence happening to women in our state” James Fink, MDVPTB chair said. “Introducing this report is an important step toward informing Michigan citizens about our organization’s commitment and forward movement to end the private terror Michigan victims experience every day”

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Cain said. “The *Report to Michigan* illustrates the excellent work that is already occurring in Michigan. This work has been, and must continue as, collaboration between bi-partisan legislators, state and local organizations and agencies. We are proud to be rooted in a state that has consistently established a willingness to struggle toward creating a violence-free Michigan.”

Family Independence Agency director Douglas E. Howard said, “Michigan is a leader in the national domestic violence prevention movement, but we can do more. This report is an excellent accounting of what we’ve done and what we’re going to be doing in the future.”

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